

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SY-07 M-03 A-01 BNDE-00 SNM-02 JUSE-00

TRSE-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00

OMB-01 L-03 IO-12 NSC-10 RSR-01 INRE-00 /084 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2756

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2385

FOR S/ CCT AND NEA/ PAB

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SNAR, AF

SUBJECT: PROVISION OF ARMORED VESTS FOR RGA POLICE AND GENDARMERIE

REF: A) KABUL 2291; B) KABUL 1488

1. SUMMARY: REF A REFLECTS FINAL REFINEMENT OF ENFORCEMENT PORTION OF OUR NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTION PLAN AND IDENTIFIES MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AS MOST PROMISING AND POTENTIALLY EFFECTIVE RGA ELEMENT FOR USG TO WORK WITH . BY ELIMINATING ALL NARCOTICS SUPPORT TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND GENDARMERIE, AT LEAST FOR PRESENT, WE PRECLUDE CHANCE OF PROVIDING ARMORED VESTS TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AS PART OF OVERALL NARCOTICS PACKAGE. SUPPLY OF THESE VESTS WOULD, HOWEVER, BE HIGHLY BENEFICIAL TO USG. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF APPROXIMATELY \$28,000 GRANT TO PROVIDE 200 ARMORED VESTS FOR POLICE IN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.

2. IN EARLY 1972, THE THEN MINISTER OF INTERIOR ASKED AMBASSADOR IF USG COULD PROVIDE 200 BULLET- PROOF VESTS FOR AFGHAN POLICE USE FOR RIOT CONTROL AND OTHER DUTIES. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED MATTER BE PURSUED BY MINISTER WITH FRG POLICE ADVISORY TEAM. SUBSEQUENTLY, MINISTER AND POLICE COMMANDANT GENERAL INFORMED US FRG POLICE COULD NOT PROVIDE VESTS. MINISTER AND POLICE COMMANDANT HAVE SPORADICALLY REPEATED REQUEST IN LOW KEY, BUT RECENTLY WITH MORE VIGOR. PRESENT MINISTER NOW LINKING REQUEST DELICATELY
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TO DISCUSSIONS RELATIVE TO INCREASING POLICE EFFECTIVENESS IN OUR INTERESTS (ANTI- TERRORISM PRECAUTIONS). ALTHOUGH THAT REASONING IS AT LEAST SOMEWHAT SPECIOUS, IT IS CLEARLY RECOGNIZABLE AS A HOPED QUID FOR THE QUO OF THEIR THUS FAR FULLY COOPERATIVE RESPONSE ON TERRORIST THREAT TO US OFFICIALS.

3. WE HAD INCLUDED \$28,000 FOR THIS ITEM IN REF B, PARA TWO (B) IN THE PROPOSED EQUIPMENT FOR THE GENDARMERIE. THIS ENTIRE PROPOSAL NOW DROPPED PER REF A. BECAUSE WE ARE PROPOSING TO CUT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR COMPLETELY OUT OF US ASSISTANCE IN THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM, WE FEEL IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOW A BALANCE OF ASSISTANCE TO BOTH ELEMENTS OF AFGHAN ENFORCEMENT (INTERIOR VIS- A- VIS JUSTICE) AND BELIEVE THAT BY BEING AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ON THIS REQUEST, WE WILL SHOW OUR APPRECIATION FOR ANTI- TERRORIST ASSISTANCE TO DATE AND OFFSET ANY DISGRUNTLEMENT ON INTERIOR'S PART WHEN THEY SEE FULL SHARE OF US NARCOTICS SUPPORT GOING TO JUSTICE.

4. WE URGE WASHINGTON SEEK MEANS FOR FUNDING PURCHASE OF AT LEAST PORTION OF PROTECTION VESTS MINISTER OF INTERIOR IS INTENT ON ACQUIRING. VESTS DESIRED ARE " PA-400 FULL TORSO VEST, FRONT, BACK AND GROIN PROTECTION AT FULL VELOCITY AND ZERO DEGREES OBLIQUITY FROM .22 LONG RIFLE THRU .357 MAGNUM." WE UNDERSTAND VESTS PRODUCED BY AVCO CORP, LOWELL, MASS. AT 100 UNIT COST OF \$140 EA.

5. WE RECOGNIZE UNORTHODOXY OF THIS RECOMMENDATION, BUT WE ARE CONVINCED THAT INVESTMENT OF \$28,000 TO ASSIST MININTERIOR WILL YIELD LARGE DIVIDENDS IN TWO KEY AREAS OF US CONCERNS, I. E., CONTINUED COOPERATION ON NARCOTICS PROGRAM AND STRENGTHENED PROTECTION FOR US OFFICIALS AGAINST TERRORIST THREAT.
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